



# Lowell City Council

## *Regular Meeting Minutes*

Michael Q. Geary  
*City Clerk*

**Date:** Jan 03, 2017  
**Time:** 6:30 PM  
**Location:** City Council Chamber  
375 Merrimack Street, 2nd Floor, Lowell, MA

### CITY CLERK

1. - CITY CLERK

- 1.1. 2016 / 796 - Minutes of City Council December 6th; Finance SC December 12th; Transportation SC December 13th; City Council Meeting December 13th, for acceptance.

Roll Call showed 8 present, 1 absent (C. Elliott).

Mayor Kennedy presiding.

In City Council, minutes read, **Motion** "To accept and place on file" by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Milinazzo. So voted.

### GENERAL PUBLIC HEARINGS

2. - GENERAL PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 2.1. 2016 / 782 - Ordinance-Amend c. 222 "Peace and Good Order" by creating new section 222.17 entitled "Public Nuisance Properties"

In City Council, Given 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading and adopted. Public hearing held. No Remonstrants. Speaking in favor were Armand Hebert, Chief Winward (LFD) and Supt. Taylor (LPD). C. Milinazzo noted that there are civil and criminal dispositions regarding these issues. Manager Murphy noted the fines and the ability to charge for calls contained in the ordinance.



## **VOTING**

Committee Member	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	RECUSE	MOTION	SECONDED
Kennedy, Jr, Edward J.	x					
Belanger, Corey	x					
Elliott, Rodney M.						
Leahy, John J.	x					
Leary, James	x					
Mercier, Rita M.	x				x	
Milinzazzo, James L.	x					
Rourke, Daniel P.	x					x
Samaras, William	x					

## **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER**

### **3. - COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER**

- 3.1. 2016 / 795 - Motion Responses:**
- (A) Safe Zone Transaction Location**
  - (B) Church Parking Gorham**
  - (C) 15 Minute Parking Branch Street**
  - (D) Master Plan Review**
  - (E) External Contracts**
  - (F) 5 Year Plan for Problem Properties**
  - (G) Status of the Hamilton Canal District Parking Garage**
  - (H) Broadway Street Bridge**
  - (I) Lead Testing**
- Informational:**
- (J) FY2017 Tax Rate**

In Council, **Motion** "To accept and place on file" by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Samaras. So voted.

C. Rourke commented on Motion Response A regarding safe transaction zone noting the public location. Supt. Taylor commented on process to establish the location and they will inform public of it. M. Kennedy noted the procedure to use the location.

C. Mercier commented on Motion Response B regarding Gorham St. church parking noting the quick reply of the administration.

C. Belanger commented on Motion Response C regarding 15 minute parking on Branch St. noting it assists a business rebuilt after fire.



C. Samaras commented on Motion Response D regarding Master Plan review by **Motion** seconded by C. Leary to refer response to Economic Development SC. So voted. C. Leary noted the importance to see if there is deviation from the plan. C. Milinazzo requested that update information on the Genesis and Watermark projects be included at the subcommittee meeting. C. Samaras noted the difficulty and time needed to change the plan.

C. Leahy commented on Motion Response E regarding external contracts noting the goal is efficiency and cost savings.

Motion Response F was pulled from agenda per Manager's request.

C. Samaras commented on Motion Response G regarding Hamilton Canal Garage by **Motion** seconded by C. Leary to refer to Economic Development SC. So voted.

Manager Murphy commented on Motion Response I regarding lead testing noting the efforts of the Water Department including the leading lab technician to cover all of the schools and make recommendations for improvements. C. Mercier noted the efforts of the employees who do not have high profile jobs and the work that they do to improve the quality of life in the City.

Manager Murphy commented on Informational Response J regarding FY17 tax rate indicating the increase and to ensure increased funding for public safety, schools and capital projects. C. Mercer noted that costs from high school project are not included in the calculation.

**3.2. 2016 / 807 - Communication-Reappoint Ron Lassman, Joseph Mellen, Providencia de Leon, David Ellingson to Lowell Disability Commission**

In Council, read and adopted. So voted.

**VOTING**

Committee Member	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	RECUSE	MOTION	SECONDED
Kennedy, Jr, Edward J.	x					
Belanger, Corey	x					
Elliott, Rodney M.						
Leahy, John J.	x					
Leary, James	x					
Mercier, Rita M.	x				x	
Milinazzo, James L.	x					
Rourke, Daniel P.	x					x
Samaras, William	x					



**3.3. 2016 / 808 - Communication-Reappoint George DeLuca, Paul Belley, Dan O'Connor, Susan Smith, Janet Barsorian, Brent Rourke, Nicole Nickerson, Jude Dehart, JoAnn Howell, Diane Waddell and Linda King to Hunger Homeless Commission**

In Council, **Motion** "To accept and place on file" by C. Leary, seconded by C. Belanger. So voted.

**3.4. 2016 / 809 - Communication-Accept Resignation of Christopher Roux - Board of Parks**

In Council, **Motion** "To accept and place on file" by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Samaras. So voted.

**3.5. 2016 / 810 - Communication-Appoint Melissa Desroches to Board of Parks**

In Council, read and adopted. So voted. Ms. Desroches was present and thanked the Council.

**VOTING**

Committee Member	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	RECUSE	MOTION	SECONDED
Kennedy, Jr, Edward J.	x					
Belanger, Corey	x					
Elliott, Rodney M.						
Leahy, John J.	x					x
Leary, James	x				x	
Mercier, Rita M.	x					
Milinazzo, James L.	x					
Rourke, Daniel P.	x					
Samaras, William	x					

**3.6. 2016 / 812 - Communication-Accept resignation of W. Timothy Green-Lowell Housing Authority**

In Council, **Motion** "To accept and place on file" by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Samaras. So voted.

**3.7. 2016 / 813 - Communication-Appoint Matthew Marr-Lowell Housing Authority (Labor Rep)**

In Council, read and adopted. So voted. Mr. Marr was present and thanked the Council.



### **VOTING**

Committee Member	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	RECUSE	MOTION	SECONDED
Kennedy, Jr, Edward J.	x					
Belanger, Corey	x					
Elliott, Rodney M.						
Leahy, John J.	x					
Leary, James	x					
Mercier, Rita M.	x					
Milinazzo, James L.	x					x
Rourke, Daniel P.	x				x	
Samaras, William	x					

#### **3.8. 2016 / 806 - Communication - City Manager request Out of State Travel (1) DPD.**

In Council, read and adopted. So voted.

### **VOTING**

Committee Member	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	RECUSE	MOTION	SECONDED
Kennedy, Jr, Edward J.	x					
Belanger, Corey	x					
Elliott, Rodney M.						
Leahy, John J.	x					
Leary, James	x					
Mercier, Rita M.	x					
Milinazzo, James L.	x					
Rourke, Daniel P.	x				x	
Samaras, William	x					x

### **VOTES FROM THE CITY MANAGER**

#### **4. - VOTES FROM THE CITY MANAGER**

#### **4.1. 2016 / 814 - Vote-Transfer \$204,061.40 in funds for attorney's fees associated with remediation costs, as awarded by the court.**

In Council, read twice, waived full reading and adopted. So voted.



## **VOTING**

Committee Member	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	RECUSE	MOTION	SECONDED
Kennedy, Jr, Edward J.	x					
Belanger, Corey	x					
Elliott, Rodney M.						
Leahy, John J.	x					
Leary, James	x					
Mercier, Rita M.	x					x
Milinazzo, James L.	x					
Rourke, Daniel P.	x				x	
Samaras, William	x					

## **ORDERS FROM THE CITY MANAGER**

### **5. - ORDERS FROM THE CITY MANAGER**

#### **5.1. 2016 / 811 - Order-60 day trial (various)**

In Council, read twice, waived full reading and adopted. So voted.

## **VOTING**

Committee Member	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	RECUSE	MOTION	SECONDED
Kennedy, Jr, Edward J.	x					
Belanger, Corey	x					
Elliott, Rodney M.						
Leahy, John J.	x					
Leary, James	x					x
Mercier, Rita M.	x					
Milinazzo, James L.	x					
Rourke, Daniel P.	x				x	
Samaras, William	x					

## **REPORTS (SUB / COMMITTEE, IF ANY)**

### **6. - REPORTS (SUB / COMMITTEE, IF ANY)**

#### **6.1. 2016 / 804 - Technology & Utilities SC January 3, 2017.**

In City Council, C. Leary reported on the Technology & Utilities SC meeting noting the attendance and the discussion regarding updating City website outlining the cost savings and increased efficiency. C. Leahy offered that the website had a great look and feel to it.



**Motion** to accept the report as report of progress by C. Leary, seconded by C. Leahy. So voted. C. Rourke noted that Neighborhoods SC will be meeting with downtown group on January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## PETITIONS

### 7. - PETITIONS

#### 7.1. 2016 / 798 - Claims - (2) Property.

In Council, read and **Motion** to refer to Law Department for report and recommendation by C. Milinazzo, seconded by C. Samaras. So voted.

#### 7.2. 2016 / 797 - Misc. - Maloney Properties, Inc. on behalf of Aixa Colon request (1) handicap parking sign at 473 Moody Street.

In Council, read and **Motion** to refer, as amended, to Traffic Engineer for report and recommendation by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Milinazzo. So voted. C. Mercier requested location be given a 60 day trial and was adopted with no objection.

## CITY COUNCIL - MOTIONS

### 8. - CITY COUNCIL - MOTIONS

#### 8.1. 2016 / 799 - C. Elliott - Req. City Mgr. contact State regarding installation of "roller barrier system" for the intersection of Gorham Street and the Lowell Connector.

In Council, to be taken up following week January 10th. So voted.

#### 8.2. 2016 / 800 - C. Elliott/C. Leahy - Req. City Council vote to implement legal measures against National Grid for delays associated with bridge projects in the City.

In Council, to be taken up following week January 10th. So voted. C. Leahy agreed to postponement.

#### 8.3. 2016 / 815 - C. Leahy - Req. City Mgr. have DPD provide an economic report regarding upcoming year; report to include information on business coming into and leaving the City.

In Council, seconded by C. Leary, read and referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Leahy noted the need to forecast and support new business. C. Leary noted the need to forecast new revenue and that the new website would assist in this area.



**8.4. 2016 / 801 - C. Mercier - Req. City Mgr. investigate ways to provide opportunities for athletic fields sponsorships.**

In Council, seconded by C. Rourke, read and referred to City Manager and Parks & Recreation SC. So voted. C. Mercier noted there were private entities searching for use of parks and that the matter should be referred to the subcommittee above.

**8.5. 2016 / 802 - C. Samaras - Req. City Mgr. insure neighborhood organizations are informed of all public board meetings and their agendas.**

In Council, seconded by C. Milinazzo, read and referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Samaras noted question of notice to neighborhoods where there are clubs and bars.

**8.6. 2016 / 803 - C. Samaras/C. Leary - Req. City Mgr. update City Council regarding status of the Bridge Street renovations.**

In Council, no second needed, read and referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Samaras noted the need that project is completed properly. C. Leary noted it was an economic driver and important to the City.

**8.7. 2016 / 816 - C. Leary - Req. City Mgr. work to create a consistent trash and recycle pickup time period especially during holiday time frames.**

In Council, seconded by C. Rourke, read and referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Leary noted need for better communication and that the vendor should be more consistent with delivery of their services.

**8.8. 2016 / 817 - C. Leary - Req. City Mgr. work with the Department of Parks to repair/re-point the stone wall at Crowley Park.**

In Council, seconded by C. Leahy, read and referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Leary noted the location of the park and the need for repairs.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**9. - ANNOUNCEMENTS**

In City Council, C. Leahy noted the scholarship recipients from Lowell High School.





## ADJOURNMENT

**10. - Time for meeting to stand adjourned.**

**Motion** to Adjourn by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Samaras. So voted.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk